



State of Illinois
JB Pritzker, Governor

Illinois Department of Transportation
Omer Osman, Acting Secretary

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Winter storm, difficult driving conditions today, start of work week throughout much of Illinois

Heavy snow, freezing rain to create slippery roads, hazardous driving conditions

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Transportation is warning the public that a winter storm with the potential for several inches of snow and freezing rain will have a major impact on travel later today and Monday throughout much of the state. All motorists should plan accordingly for conditions to deteriorate this afternoon, into the overnight hours and tomorrow, with hazardous driving conditions and much longer travel times.

“The IDOT snow-and-ice teams will be prepared, but the public should expect worsening driving conditions Sunday, with travel becoming potentially dangerous late in the day,” said Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. “Before heading out, ask yourself if your trip can wait. Travel at times will be treacherous. If you are driving, please slow down, expect very slow travel and don’t crowd the plows – give them plenty of room to operate.”

The National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning until Monday evening, with snow beginning to accumulate this afternoon, primarily in the central part of the state. Areas along and south of Interstate 70 could see periods of freezing rain late tonight through Monday morning.

Total accumulations are expected to reach between 4 to 8 inches in the Quincy, Springfield and Champaign areas, extending south to St. Louis. North of Peoria and far southern Illinois are anticipated to receive between 1 to 2 inches, with a trace in the Chicago area.

For regular updates on statewide road conditions, visit www.gettingaroundillinois.com. You also can follow IDOT on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Throughout the state, whenever possible, IDOT crews will be pretreating bridges, overpasses and ramps, the areas most susceptible to icing. The department will have available more than 1,800 trucks and equipment statewide, applying salt and treating roads.

If you encounter a plow during your travels, please slow down, increase your driving distance and remain patient.

Other tips if you must travel:

- Take it slow, especially when approaching intersections, ramps, bridges and shady areas.
- Make sure your gas tank is full.
- Keep a cell phone, warm clothes, blankets, food, water, a first-aid kit, washer fluid and an ice scraper in your vehicle.
- Check the forecast and make sure someone is aware of your route and schedule.
- Carry a cellphone and dial *999 in the Chicago area for roadway assistance in case of emergency. Reminder: Using handheld phones while driving is illegal in Illinois, unless it is an emergency situation.
- Always wear a seat belt, whether you're sitting in the front seat or back seat. It's the law.

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